

Please delete the Abstract at page 14 in its entirety and insert therefor the following replacement Abstract on a separate sheet as follows:

ABSTRACT

A surface pressure releasing plate and a surface pressure releasing bar are slidable relative to each other smoothly by compressing compression springs uniformly. A surface pressure applying device for a slide valve according to the present invention compresses compression springs uniformly in applying and releasing surface pressure and makes a surface pressure releasing plate and a surface pressure releasing bar smoothly slide relative to each other by matching an arrangement center of projections on the surface pressure releasing plate with an arrangement center of the compression springs.